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LOUISIANA

DEPUTY WHIP

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Environment and Public Works

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Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Special Committee on Aging

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 3, 2007

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Office of Senator Mary Landrieu
724 Hart Senate Building
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Dear Mary,

I write to respectfully urge you once again to turn in your "blue slip" for and cease blocking the nomination process of David Dugas, President Bush's nominee for U.S. District Court Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana, who now serves as that district's U.S. Attorney.

As you know, I have brought this matter up with you several times and my chief of staff has brought it up with yours several times in addition, but this has not produced any apparent prospect of resolution. I write this letter to refocus on this important matter for Louisiana and achieve a positive resolution.

District court nominees (as opposed to circuit court or U.S. Supreme Court nominees) are routinely given a hearing by the Judiciary Committee when both senators representing the state in question indicate their lack of objection by turning in their "blue slips". If the hearing is uneventful these district court nominees are then routinely confirmed, often by voice vote. Your failure to turn in your "blue slip" to date with regard to David Dugas is the only impediment to his confirmation proceeding.

As you know, David Dugas is highly qualified and experienced. He has been rated "Well Qualified" by the American Bar Association (ABA), its highest rating. He also was confirmed as U.S. Attorney by the Senate by voice vote and with your support.

I strongly believe that every judicial nominee deserves a fair and timely hearing and up-or-down vote. In contrast to this, I fear that what is happening is a "slow-walking" of David Dugas' judicial nomination in order to wait out the remainder of President Bush's second term; this would possibly hand the vacancy to a Democratic president in 2009. I believe this would be a new low of delay, obstructionism, and partisanship regarding judges.

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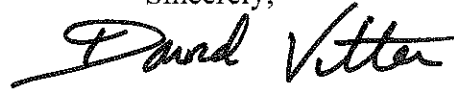
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David Dugas was nominated to a district court – the lowest level of the federal court system, which does not set new legal precedent. He was nominated six and half months ago, nearly two years before the end of the Bush presidency. He has been rated “Well Qualified” by the ABA. I have heard no substantive objection to him from you (I have asked you directly) or anyone else. He already has been confirmed by the Senate as U.S. Attorney with your support. Justice is being delayed in the Middle District because of this vacancy.

I urge you to allow David Dugas’ confirmation to proceed as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Vitter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

David Vitter